



Code of Practice for Governors

As the Governing Body of St Katharine's we have adopted the following procedures and principles:

Commitment

- Through our governance to seek to promote a strong Christian ethos
- To accept that being a governor involves the commitment of significant amounts of time and energy
- To be active and involved members of the governing body, attend regularly, and share responsibilities, including service on committees or working groups
- To know the school well and respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in school activities
- To attend training and take responsibility for our own learning and development as a governor
- To prepare for meetings by reading paperwork beforehand

Confidentiality

- To observe complete confidentiality when required to do so by the governing body, especially regarding matters concerning individual staff or students
- To not divulge information about members of staff or pupils
- To exercise great care if a discussion of a potentially contentious issue of the school arises outside the governing body
- To declare an interest if an item under discussion at any full or committee meeting of governors impinges upon our personal, family or financial situation

Conduct

- To work as a member of the team at all times and be loyal to collective decisions
- To encourage the open expression of views at meetings, but accept collective responsibility for all decisions made by the governing body or its delegated agents. This means we will not speak out *against* majority decisions in public (or private) outside the governing body
- To only seek to act on behalf of the governing body when we have been specifically authorised to do so
- In making or responding to criticism or complaints affecting the school we will follow the procedures established by the governing body
- Our visits to school will follow the code of practice for visits established by the governing body and agreed with the Headteacher
- To always be mindful of our responsibility to maintain and develop the ethos and reputation of our school
- To seek to develop effective working relationships with the head, staff and parents, the LA and other relevant agencies and the community

General

- To be responsible for determining, monitoring and keeping under review the broad policies, plans and procedures of the school
- To recognise that the Headteacher is responsible for the implementation of policy, day-to-day management of the school and the implementation of the curriculum
- To accept that all governors have equal status, and, although appointed by different groups, the overriding concern will be the welfare of the school as a whole
- To realise there is no legal authority to act individually, except when the governing body has given delegated authority to do so
- To have a duty to act fairly and without prejudice, and in so far as we have responsibility for staff, we will fulfil all that is expected of a good employer.
- To will encourage open government and will act appropriately.
- To will consider carefully how our decisions may affect other schools.